

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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O 201835Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127840

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS

SUBJECT: HAROLD E. HOLT FACILITY

1. AUSTRALIAN DAO GEN. FALKLAND PRESENTED QUESTIONS ON
HAROLD HOLT FACILITY TO DOD ON MAY 19. ON MAY 20 FOLLOWING
ANSWERS WERE PROVIDED TO GENERAL FALKLAND (AUSTRALIAN
QUESTIONS PARAPHRASED).

2. THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS WERE PROVIDED BY DCA AND THE U.S.
AIR FORCE.

A. IS IT INTENDED THAT A TT AND C FUNCTION BE EXERCISED
AT NW CAPE?...NO.

B. IS A SATELLITE CONTROL FACILITY (SCF) REMOTE
TRACKING STATION TO BE INSTALLED AT NW CAPE?...NO.

C. IS A SATELLITE CONFIGURATION CONTROL ELEMENT (SCCS)
TO BE INSTALLED AT NW CAPE?...NO. ARE ANY SEPARATE
ANTENNAE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ELEMENT?...NO.
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D. (1) DOES THE MSC-61 TERMINAL PROPOSED FOR INSTAL-
LATION AT NW CAPE HAVE ANY FUNCTION RELATED TO TT AND C,
OR, (2) IS IT PURELY FOR TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION OF
VARIOUS TYPES OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC?

(1) NO.

(2) IT IS PURELY FOR TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION OF
VARIOUS COMMUNICATION TRAFFIC.

E. IS A UHF SATELLITE ACCESSING CAPABILITY TO BE
INSTALLED AT NW CAPE?...DCA KNOWS OF NONE.

3. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE REINECKE ARTICLE WERE
PROVIDED BY DCA.

A. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NOW AND HAS NOT IN
THE PAST PLANNED ANY DSCS SATELLITE COMMAND FACILITIES
FOR NW CAPE, AUSTRALIA.

B. THE AN/TSC-54 SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS TERMINAL
PRESENTLY INSTALLED AT NW CAPE IS AGING. THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT IS CONTEMPLATING THE REPLACEMENT OF TSC 54
WITH THE AN/MSC-61 SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS TERMINAL.
BOTH THE OLD AND THE NEW TERMINALS ARE TOTALLY INDEPENDENT
OF A CHANGE IN THE SPACE SEGMENT OF THE DEFENSE SATELLITE
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FROM A DSCS 11 SATELLITE TO A
DSCS 111 SATELLITE.

C. THE UPGRADING OF A SATELLITE TERMINAL BEARS NO
RELATIONS TO THE UPGRADING OF THE SATELLITE SYSTEM. THE
UPGRADED SATELLITE TERMINAL WILL NOT HAVE A SATELLITE
COMMAND CAPABILITY.
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4. THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS AND COMMENTS RESPOND TO QUESTIONS
AND ISSUES RAISED IN THE MEMORANDUM TO ISA.

A. PARA 2: WHAT CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN LET AFFECTING
NW CAPE, WHEN, AND TO WHOM:

ANSWER: THE CONTRACT FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF 21 MSC-61
TERMINALS (ELECTRONIC HARDWARE) WAS AWARDED TO COMTEC
LABS, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK LAST MARCH. THE CONTRACT
FOR THE ANTENNAE WAS AWARDED TO THE HARRIS CORPORATION
OF FLORIDA. WE ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE AUGUST 1977
CONTRACT FOR PHILCO-FORD. HOWEVER, TOUHY'S REFERENCE
TO THE COMPANY PROBABLY STEMS FROM ITS ROLE AS THE
MANUFACTURER OF THE OLD TSC-54.

B. PARA 3: WHAT ARE THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE
PRELIMINARY SITE SURVEY AND THE USE OF AUSTRALIAN
RESOURCES DURING CONSTRUCTION.

ANSWER: OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE PHILIPPINE
FIRM ARIZALA CONTINIANO VILLA REAL AND ASSOCIATES

PERFORMED THE SURVEY AS A SUBCONTRACTOR FOR THE U.S. COMPANY, ADRIAN WILSON ASSOCIATES. THE CONTRACT WAS AWARDED BY THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF CONSTRUCTION, NAVFACENGCOM, SW PACIFIC IN MANILA. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AT THE MOMENT WHETHER AUSTRALIAN FIRMS BID FOR THE CONTRACT, BUT WE WILL INQUIRE ABOUT THIS AT NAVFACENGCOM AND INFORM YOU OF THE INFORMATION WE RECEIVE. NO OTHER CONTRACTS INCIDENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TERMINAL FACILITIES HAVE BEEN AWARDED.

C. PARA 4-5: THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA SEEKS A PROCEDURE TO INSURE PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF ALL PUBLIC RELEASES BEARING ON JOINT DEFENSE FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA. CONFIDENTIAL

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ANSWER: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ENDEAVORED TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA FULLY INFORMED THROUGH EXCHANGES ON THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA REGARDING PROCEDURES THAT WOULD MORE ADEQUATELY MEET ITS REQUIREMENTS.

D. PARA 6: THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA EXPECTS A FORMAL PROPOSAL ON THE NEW SYSTEM BEFORE CONSIDERATION CAN BE GIVEN TO THE REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING TERMINAL.

ANSWER: AS THE MSC-61 PROGRAM REACHES AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE A FORMAL PROPOSAL RESPONSIVE TO THE DESIRES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA.

E. PARA 7: PROVIDE FULL INFORMATION ON THE FUNCTION AND CAPABILITIES OF THE NEW TERMINAL. DOES THE NEW TERMINAL EXTEND THE CAPABILITY OR FUNCTION OF THE NW CAPE STATION?

ANSWER: THE CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY OF THE TERMINAL WILL BE IMPROVED THROUGH GREATER LINK/CHANNEL AVAILABILITY AND ENHANCED MAINTAINABILITY AND RELIABILITY. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN FUNCTION. IN SHORT, THE NEW EQUIPMENT WILL DO MORE OF THE SAME WITH FEWER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND MORE RAPID REPAIR OF THOSE PROBLEMS THAT DO OCCUR.

F. PARA 8: WHY WAS THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY CONSULTED AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 1977 ON THE MSC-61 WHILE AUSTRALIA WAS NOT?

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ANSWER: DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GERMANS WERE CARRIED OUT
ON THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. AS HAS BEEN POINTED OUT, THE
AUSTRALIAN SIDE HAS ALSO BEEN KEPT INFORMED ABOUT THIS
ISSUE ON A TECHNICAL LEVEL AS EARLY AS 1972. VANCE

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